

NEWS RELEASE

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Chicago-area Man Charged with Drug Offenses in McLean County

Peoria, IL – A federal grand jury today charged a Markham, Illinois man with distribution and possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine, as announced by Rodger A. Heaton, United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois.

Curtis J. Ross, 29, of 16546 S. Winchester, Markham, Illinois is charged with one count of distribution of crack cocaine and one count of possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine. The indictment alleges Ross possessed more than 50 grams of crack on November 4, 2005, in McLean County.

The charges are the result of an investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Bloomington Police Department in cooperation with the McLean County State's Attorney's Office and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney John H. Campbell.

If convicted, the offense of distribution of crack cocaine carries a statutory penalty of up to 20 years imprisonment; however, if the defendant has one or more prior felony drug convictions, the penalty increases to 30 years to life imprisonment. For possession with intent to distribute, the penalty is a minimum 10 years to life in prison. With one or more prior felony drug convictions, the penalty is 20 years to life in prison.

Members of the public are reminded that an indictment is merely an accusation; the defendant is presumed innocent unless proven guilty.

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